

REMARKS

Claims 2-10, 12-16, 19-22, 24-30, and 33-38 are pending in the Application. Claims 37 and 38 are newly added. Claims 1, 11, 17, 18, 23, 31, and 32 are canceled in this Reply. Claims 12-16, 18-22 and 34 are objected to for various informalities. Claims 23, 27, 29, 31, 32 and 35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Wiegert (U.S. Pat. No. 6,237,557). Claims 1, 5, 6, 8 and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wiegert in view of Kronich et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,105,777). Claim 26 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wiegert in view of Alden (U.S. Pat. No. 4,538,560). Claims 4 and 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wiegert in view of Kronich et al. and further in view of Alden. Claims 9 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wiegert in view of Kronich et al. and further in view of Mackawa et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,299,175). Claims 11, 16-18 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Wiegert. Claims 14 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Wiegert in view of Alden. Claims 2, 3, 7, 12, 13, 19, 20, 22, 24, 25, 28, 33 and 36 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration in view of the remarks and amendments herein.

Claims 2, 3, 7, 12, 13, 19, 20, 22, 24, 25, 28, 33 and 36 have been rewritten in independent format. In rewriting claim 20, the informality for which claim 20 was objected to has been corrected, specifically the phrase "comprise a polymer and a cellulosic material" has been amended to recite "comprise at least one of a polymer and a cellulosic material." Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objections to claims 2, 3, 7, 12, 13, 19, 20, 22, 24, 25, 28, 33 and 36.

Claims 1, 11, 17, 18, 23, 31 and 32 have been canceled; and therefore, the rejections as to these claims are moot. The remaining claims 4-6, 8-10, 14-16, 21, 26, 27, 29, 30, 34 and 35 have been amended to depend from the claims rewritten in independent format discussed above. In doing so, the dependencies of claims 12-16 and 18-22, objected to as having incorrect

dependency, have been changed. Further, the informality for which claim 34 was objected to has been corrected, specifically the phrase "comprise a polymer and a cellulosic material" has been amended to recite "comprise at least one of a polymer and a cellulosic material." Finally, claims 18 and 32 have been rewritten as claims 37 and 38 depending from allowable claims 19 and 33 respectively. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections and objections to these claims.

Applicants hereby specifically reserve the right to prosecute claims of different or broader scope in a continuation application. Applicants note that the amendments made herein are made solely for the purposes of more clearly and particularly describing and claiming the invention, and not for purposes of overcoming art or for patentability. The Examiner should infer no (i) adoption of a position with respect to patentability, (ii) change in the Applicants' position with respect to any claim or subject matter of the invention, or (iii) acquiescence in any way to any position taken by the Examiner, based on such amendments.

Conclusion

In view the above, Applicants respectfully submit that that Application is in condition for allowance, and request such a Notice. If there are any outstanding issues, the Examiner is requested to telephone the Applicants' attorney identified below.

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Enclosed is a check in the amount of \$704.00 for excess claim fees. Please apply any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

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